

## **Tool 4**

### **Maryland Funding Resources**

This tool contains resources for financing watershed planning in Maryland and is limited to those resources for which local governments are eligible



## Financing for Watershed Planning

The following resources are for financing watershed planning in Maryland and are limited to those resources for which local governments are eligible. Resources include grants, loans, and cost-share agreements and are split into two categories: resources that fund the development of a watershed plan and resources that can be used to implement watershed management plan recommendations, including stormwater retrofits, reforestation projects, pollution prevention, agricultural BMPs, and more. The two resources listed below can be used to fund watershed planning in Maryland.

### *Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program*

This grant program, sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency, awards financial assistance to support communities in developing and implementing watershed management plans, developing the capacity of local governments to enhance local watershed management, and encourage environmentally sensitive development, land conservation, and sound land use planning. Grants awarded for 2004 ranged from \$5,000 to \$50,000.

For more information:

National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
1120 Connecticut Avenue, Suite 900  
Washington, DC 20036  
[www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)

### *Chesapeake Bay Trust*

The Chesapeake Bay Trust offers grants for qualified activities in Maryland that contribute to the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay. The Trust favors partnerships and action-oriented activities, with emphasis on projects that unite business, government and citizen groups in restoration and protection activities. Priority is given to two principal areas: education projects that promote a behavior change toward the Bay, and the performance of restoration activities that utilize volunteers. Specific grants available to local governments include Quarterly Grants, the Targeted Watershed Grants program, and the Living Shoreline Initiative.

Chesapeake Bay Trust  
60 West Street, Suite 405  
Annapolis, MD 21401  
(410) 974-2941  
[www.chesapeakebaytrust.org](http://www.chesapeakebaytrust.org)

In addition, the US EPA Chesapeake Bay Watershed Implementation Grants program is currently being assembled and will be a major source of funding for watershed planning in Maryland.

### *Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation*

Established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1977 and is part of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. The Foundation purchases agricultural preservation easements that restrict development on prime farmland and woodland.  
<http://www.malpf.info/>

*Maryland's Program Open Space*

Program Open Space provides dedicated funds for Maryland's state and local parks and conservation areas.

<http://www.dnr.state.md.us/pos.asp>

### **Financing for Watershed Plan Implementation**

Table 1 presents a list of resources that can be used to finance implementation of watershed plans in Maryland.

**Table 1: Financing Resources for Watershed Plan Implementation in Maryland**

<i>Name of Resource</i>	<i>Types of Projects Funded</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Website</i>
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program	Ag BMPs and conservation	Provides financial incentives to farmers to create wetlands, plant riparian buffers and provide wildlife habitat. Annual incentive payments of \$50-\$200/acre and up to 87.5% cost-share for most practices.	<a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/milo.asp">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/wildlife/milo.asp</a>
Governor Ehrlich's Bay Restoration Fund (MDE)	Infrastructure upgrades	This \$5 million fund provides grants of up to 75% for various wastewater treatment and sewer upgrades. As of 2005, funding is only available for sewer replacement/rehab and combined or sanitary sewer overflow corrections	<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us/water/cbwrf/index.asp">http://www.mde.state.md.us/water/cbwrf/index.asp</a>
Maryland Agricultural Water Quality Cost Share Program (MACS)	Ag BMPs and nutrient management assistance	The MACS program provides farmers with up to 87.5% cost-share grants to install a full range of BMPs on their farms as part of a more comprehensive program to protect watersheds and maintain farm productivity.	<a href="http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/MDA_MACS_bro_proof4.pdf">http://www.mda.state.md.us/pdf/MDA_MACS_bro_proof4.pdf</a>
MD DNR Rural Legacy Program	Ag land conservation	Provides funding to protect large contiguous tracts of land and other strategic areas from sprawl development, and enhance natural resource, agricultural, forestry and environmental protection; local government must apply to have an area designated a "rural legacy area."	<a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/rurallegacy/rlprogram/index.html">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/rurallegacy/rlprogram/index.html</a>
MD DNR Shore Erosion Control Program	Shoreline erosion control	Grants and loans for structural or non-structural shore erosion control practices; as of 2005, only loans are available; 75% interest-free loans for projects on private and public lands using State special funds	<a href="http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programapps/sec.html">http://www.dnr.state.md.us/forests/programapps/sec.html</a>
MDE 319 Grants	NPS pollution control	As of 2005, 319 money is being directed to specific watersheds, and RFPs will not be announced until at least 2006. Waterways with a high likelihood of being delisted from 303(d) list will take priority when RFPs are released.	<a href="http://www.mde.state.md.us">http://www.mde.state.md.us</a>
MDE Small Creeks and Estuaries Restoration	Various restoration projects	This cost-share program provides up to 50% in grant funds for the study, approved design, and construction costs or up to 75% with demonstrated need. Projects include stream bank stabilization, wetland creation, and vegetative buffers targeting "seriously degraded" water bodies.	<a href="http://textonly.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/WQIP/wqip_smallcreeks.asp">http://textonly.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/WQIP/wqip_smallcreeks.asp</a>

**Table 1: Financing Resources for Watershed Planning and Implementation in Maryland**

<i>Name of Resource</i>	<i>Types of Projects Funded</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Website</i>
MD NRCS Conservation Security Program	Ag conservation	Provides financial and technical assistance to promote conservation on Tribal land and private working lands, including cropland, grassland, prairie land, improved pasture, and range land, as well as forested land that is incidental to agriculture operation.	<a href="http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html">http://www.md.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/csp/csp.html</a>
MDE Maryland Stormwater Pollution Control Cost-Share Program	Stormwater Retrofits	Grant funding for stormwater management retrofit and conversion projects in urban areas developed prior to 1984; up to 75% of the costs for project design and construction (maximum of \$500,000 per project)	<a href="http://textonly.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/WQIP/wqip_stormwater.asp">http://textonly.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/WQIP/wqip_stormwater.asp</a>
MDE Water Quality State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF)	Point and NPS pollution control	Provides low or no interest rate loans to local governments for point and non-point source pollution control including wellhead protection, wastewater treatment plant improvements, and brownfield clean-up.	<a href="http://textonly.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Water_Quality_Finance/Water_Quality_Fund/index.asp">http://textonly.mde.state.md.us/Programs/WaterPrograms/Water_Quality_Finance/Water_Quality_Fund/index.asp</a>
NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Ag BMPs and conservation	Provides farmers and ranchers with 75% cost share of certain conservation/management practices for up to 3 years.	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip/</a>
NRCS Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP)	Various restoration projects	Provides up to 75 percent cost-share assistance to establish or improve upland, wetland, riparian, and aquatic habitat areas. Limited funds available directly to local governments.	<a href="http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/">http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/</a>
US Housing and Urban Development (HUD)	Brownfields	HUD administers this competitive grant program to redevelopment brownfields where environmental problems potentially exist. Funding of up to \$2 million includes site remediation costs	<a href="http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/bedi/index.cfm">http://www.hud.gov/offices/cpd/economicdevelopment/programs/bedi/index.cfm</a>

**Table 1: Financing Resources for Watershed Planning and Implementation in Maryland**

<i>Name of Resource</i>	<i>Types of Projects Funded</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Website</i>
US EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant and Revolving Loan Fund (RLF)	Brownfields	Maximum cleanup grant is \$200k per site (five sites max) and maximum RLF is \$1 million. Each requires a 20% cost share.	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm#pg">http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/applicat.htm#pg</a>
US EPA Drinking Water State Revolving Fund	Drinking water protection	A loan program with funds set aside for emphasis on small and disadvantaged communities and programs that encourage pollution prevention as a tool for ensuring safe drinking water	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html">http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf.html</a>
US EPA Five Star Restoration Program	Various restoration projects	Funds community-based restoration projects that lead to education; funding levels are from \$5,000 to \$20,000, with \$10,000 as the average amount awarded per project	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/index.html">http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/restore/5star/index.html</a>
American Forests Global Re-Leaf Grants	Tree planting	Covers costs associated with the planting of seedlings (e.g., site preparation, seedling purchase, contracting, transportation, shelters, etc.)	<a href="http://www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/grants/criteria.php">http://www.americanforests.org/global_releaf/grants/criteria.php</a>
ESRI and NACo Technology Grants	Mapping	Grants provide GIS software and hardware packages to local governments with two levels of GIS experience - introductory and intermediate.	<a href="http://www.esri.com/grants/index.html">http://www.esri.com/grants/index.html</a>
National Environmental Education and Training Foundation Competitive Challenge Grants	Education	NEETF grants are available for three areas: health & environment, environmental education, and safe water (community-wide understanding of water - as it relates to human health and community vitality)	<a href="http://www.neetf.org">http://www.neetf.org</a>
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Bring Back the Natives	Various restoration projects	Supports direct project-related salaries, contractual services and materials needed for on-the-ground restoration; Requires 2:1 non-federal to federal match; The average grant is about \$60,000.	<a href="http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm">http://www.nfwf.org/programs/grant_apply.htm</a>

